

Good morning ,senator Doyle , Rep. walker and distinguished members of the human services committee. I am writing this letter to express my concerns about H.B.5243 AN ACT CONCERNING SOBER HOMES .I WOULD LIKE TO JUST TAKE A MOMENT AS AN ADDICT IN RECOVERY TO DESCRIBE HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS IN THE EARLY STAGES OF MY RECOVERY TO LIVE IN A SOBER HOUSE AND THEN EVENTUALLY MANAGE ONE .FIRST LET ME START BY SAYING I DONT THINK I WOULD HAVE MADE IT HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE STRUCTURE AND SUPPORT YOU GET FROM LIVING IN ONE OF THESE HOUSES. THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THE EARLY STAGES OF AN ADDICTS RECOVERY . NOT ONLY TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY ACTIONS BUT ALSO TO BE THERE TO HELP OTHER ADDICTS IN NEED , WHICH INTERN HELPS ME . IT IS A THERAPUTIC ENVIRONMENT ALSO THAT AN ADDICT NEEDS IN THE EARLY STAGES IE; THERE IS A REQUIRED AMT. OF A/A AND N/A 12 STEP MEETINGS THAT ARE REQUIRED OF EACH HOUSE MEMBER EVERY WEEK. THE AMOUNT IS 5 PER WEEK. ALSO THERE ARE HOUSHOLD RESPONSIBILITIES THAT ARE GIVEN TO EACH HOUSE MEMBER . THIS STRENGTHENS A PERSONS LIFE SKILLS AS WELL AS A FAMILY LIKE ATMOSPHERE WHICH I FEEL IS VERY IMPORTANT . AS A MANAGER OF ONE OF THESE HOUSES I CAN SPEAK FOR MY HOUSE AND SAY THE RATE OF RECIDVISM IS VERY LOW AND IN THE 9 MONTHS I HAVE BEEN THERE I HAVE SEEN 75 PERCENT OF THE MEMBERS IN MY HOUSE GO ON TO AND CONTINUE WITH PRODUCTIVE LIVES IN OUR COMMUNITY .ONE THING I CAN PROMISE YOU IT IS CHEAPER TO CONTINUE TO FUND THESE HOUSE THAN IT IS TO HOUSE PRISONERS. SPEKING FOR MYSELF I HAVE SINCE WENT ON TO CONTINUE TO LIVE A PRODUCTIVE LIFE THAT I AM PROUD OF . I LIVE IN HARTFORD AND I HAVE AN OFFICE DOWNTOWN WHICH I AM VERY PROUD OF . I DO HAVE TO SAY I COULD NOT HAVE REACHED THIS GOAL HAD I NOT HAD A HEALTHY AND POSOTIVE ATMOSPHERE TO CALL HOME , MY SOBER HOUSE A PLACE I WAS PROUD TO CALL HOME.

IN CLOSING I WOULD PLEASE ASK THAT YOU NOT PUT IN PLACE THIS STATUTE WHICH MAY VERY WELL JEOPARDIZE ACCESS TO THESE HOUSES FOR PEOPLE LIKE ME STRIVING TO RECOVER AND TO REINTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY.PLEASE CONSIDER WORKING WITH DMHAS , THE RECOVERY HOUSING COALITION OF CT AND THE RECOVERY COMMUNITY TO ACCOMMODATE COMMUNITY NEEDS. THANK YOU.

SINCERELY

JOHN WOLF